

# Bats in Churches Project

Dear Church Representative

Churches Conservation Trust are partners in a five year 'Bats in Churches' project, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, working alongside Natural England, Historic England, The Church of England and Bat Conservation Trust. As part of this work we have designed a National Bats in Churches Study which takes place over the next four years (2019-2022). Our aim is to better understand how bats use churches in England and the impact they may have (both positive and negative) on those caring for churches. The results will help people who are using church buildings.

We ask that you'll allow our volunteer to carry out a one-off survey, to take place during June or July. We appreciate that you are already busy so we aren't asking for a lot of your time and it should take under two hours in total.

The National Bats in Churches Study has three parts: a questionnaire, a daytime survey and use of a static bat detector. It involves a volunteer firstly talking with a representative, or a few representatives, of the church, going through a questionnaire about your church and asking for your thoughts and experiences. This can be sent through to you beforehand.

Volunteers will also be asked to look for signs of bats, collect bat droppings for later DNA analysis, take photographs and to deploy a static bat detector in the chancel and, if possible, leave it for two nights. If there are bats present this will allow us to be able to identify the species in many cases. Any results and information regarding the bats in your church will of course be shared with you.

Importantly, we are interested in your church whether you have bats or not; knowing where bats do not roost is just as important as knowing where they do roost. If we find bats that you are currently not aware of this doesn't necessarily mean any changes are needed to the way you use the building at present.

I hope that you are happy for your church to be represented in this project. If you have any further questions about the study please don't hesitate to contact us. You can also find out more about the wider [Bats in Churches](http://www.batsandchurches.org.uk) project on our website.

Best wishes,

*CBoothby*

Claire Boothby,

Training and Survey Officer

[bats.churches@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:bats.churches@naturalengland.org.uk)

[www.batsandchurches.org.uk](http://www.batsandchurches.org.uk)

